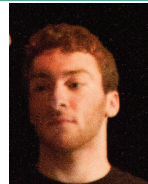


Teen trains cows, p.6



Circus coach, p.7

Police Host Virtual Town Meeting to Discuss Issues

by Rayonna Burton-Jernigan

The Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) held a meeting June 18 to address questions and concerns about policing and what the department is doing. Police Chief Richard Bowers began the meeting by addressing recent events associated with police brutality and the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"I want to express that I and the people of this police department do not accept or condone that behavior. It is condemned by us and it is unacceptable. The men and women of this police department, myself included, object to that type of police per-

formance," stated Bowers.

Floyd was killed during an arrest. Video of his arrest, showing the arresting officer kneeling on his neck for almost nine minutes, sparked widespread protests, including several peaceful events in Greenbelt.

During the meeting, Bowers reaffirmed that the way the police handled the Floyd incident is not how such things are handled in Greenbelt. "We are opposed to that type of policing. We are intent on fair and unbiased policing here. It is important to us and

See **POLICE**, page 9

Local Attorney Represents Asylum Seekers, Immigrants

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY JUAN LUIS GUILLEN

Greenbelt resident Anna Gallagher (center) stands with staff of various immigrant support organizations at the Center for Migrants Assistance in Ciudad Juarez.

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

At the U.S.-Mexico border, immigration attorney Anna Marie Gallagher met a woman whose story broke her heart. "My church saved a woman's life," Gallagher said. The Catholic Community of Greenbelt raised the money for Gallagher to go to Port Isabel Detention Center, outside Brownsville, Texas. There Gallagher met "Lucia," who had fled from the threat of being killed by her partner. After guards told Lucia she was about to have her hearing, she was separated from her 5-year-old daughter, her youngest child. "My client slept with her daughter every night of her life," Gallagher said. The child was sent to Lucia's older son, but Lucia wasn't sure where she was. "The children had been scattered all around," Gallagher said. "I prevailed in the case before a judge after two hearings. [Lucia] was released, but it takes somebody with 30-years' experience to win. Those who live in

a community with access to an attorney, their chances for success are much greater."

Gallagher is a member of the Catholic Community of Greenbelt, an Intentional Eucharistic Community formed in 1985 and consisting of around 30 members. The community's commitment to social justice led them to fund Gallagher's journey, as she

See **ATTORNEY**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, June 29

8 p.m. City Council Special Meeting: Vote to hold a closed session (personnel matters and police Collective Bargaining Agreement).

Friday, July 3

City Offices closed for Independence Day. All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in this meeting.

Juneteenth Commemoration Has Special Meaning in 2020

by René Sewell-Raysor

The drum call drew people to the grounds of the community clinic in Franklin Park. The Drum Circle, led by Katy Gaughan, created a cadence that was both mournful and celebratory. The beat moved heads and bodies into silent communication and as the rhythm slowed it became the cadence of a heartbeat. Participants moved their hands rhythmically over their hearts as the death of George Floyd hung heavily over this commemoration.

The people gathered weren't an audience but equal participants in this commemoration of Juneteenth, an African-American holiday that celebrates the last enslaved people in Texas to learn that slavery had been abolished two and a half years earlier.

"Karibu/Bienvenido," Lois Rosado greeted the gathering in Kiswahili and Spanish. The ceremony began with a libation to the ancestors: those who had

been enslaved in this country for 246 years and then were ensnared by Jim Crow laws, limiting their opportunities for education, employment and housing for another 100 years.



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

Brian Butler addresses the crowd at the Juneteenth Celebration.

Following the libation was a prayer by Rev. Ray Raysor, a member of the Franklin Park community, who called for racial equality and economic justice.

The Drum Circle beat a rhythm for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time that America watched the life of Floyd ebb from his body.

"Juneteenth is not just a celebration but it encompasses the triumphs and the sorrows of African peoples in this country," said Pastor Aaron Tinch of Rivers of Life AME Church, located in Franklin Park. "We find it not contradictory to celebrate and cry. Celebration requires remembrance. We have done it for generations."

Elected officials and citizen-leaders stood, socially distanced, but in community. Maryland State

Delegate Nicole Williams introduced West Coast poet Ishma'il Allgood from Los Angeles who shared one of his poems. His

See **JUNETEENTH**, page 12

COVID Leads Greenbelt East, Council Annual Worksession

by Matthew Arbach

On June 17, the Greenbelt City Council and staff shared responses to a series of questions posed by the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC) on a wide range of topics, including the effect of the pandemic on the city, recreation, municipal police operations, littering and traffic issues. Mayor Colin Byrd expressed that it was a pleasure to talk to this long-standing group, affording an opportunity to further unite the city. GEAC was represented by its chair, Rohanie Bacchus, and members Charlene McAdams, Sean Ballantine, Vijay Kowtha and Marti Galvin.

The COVID-19 response was the meeting's first topic, with a focus first on St. Hugh's Catholic Church, which is now open at 25 percent, per the requirements of the local archdiocese, and most importantly, the county. Councilmember Judith Davis remarked that the county should be the primary source of such guidance. Councilmember Emmett Jordan said that "local conditions require independent discretion" from the county and state, resulting in perhaps more strict actions in the city. Davis said that the city is operating under

a "bare bones budget," with no new non-essential hiring, nor any pay raises or merit payments. As this is a "bad time for residents," she counseled an easement on assessing HOA and condo fees, something that Ballantine said is happening at Windsor Green.

City Manager Nicole Ard emphasized the continued teleworking by staff and that the city should anticipate "significant hits" in revenue. Ard is committed

to keeping essential operations going and to providing as much assistance as possible, both financially and program-wise, to residents. She said "we are eager to get back" and asked residents to "bear with us" as staff works to make a reopening of facilities and programs as safe as possible. Ard said she is in frequent, sometimes daily, contact with all

See **COUNCIL**, page 8



PHOTO BY JEFF LEMIEUX

The farmers market and one bike-load provide a cornucopia of veggies.

Letters to the Editor

Juneteenth in Franklin Park

I am thankful to the Franklin Park Pride Committee, Rev. Ray Raysor, René Sewell-Raysor, Carolyn Lambright-Davis, the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, Joe Parks, drummer Katy Gaughan and the Drum Circle, Mayor Colin Byrd, Councilmember Emmett Jordan, Brian Butler and Rev. Robin Hawley-Gorsline for participating in our Juneteenth - Freedom Day event on Saturday, June 20.

We appreciate community members from all areas of Greenbelt who came to join us, to learn about Juneteenth and make this event memorable and exciting.

Juneteenth has been celebrated in various ways for 155 years. For many Black Americans, it is their Day of Independence. When Colonel Granger informed the enslaved populations of Galveston, Texas, in 1865 that they had been free since 1863, he also told them to remain on their plantations, and that they were now to become employees of their former plantation owners. Many paid no attention to that and left. The primary problem with being given Freedom is that for over 200 years enslaved populations had worked for free. In order to really have a solid chance to gain independence one needed financial resources or the “40 acres and a mule” that had been promised. As M.L. King, Jr. stated many years ago, Black people were given Freedom to want, not Freedom to live. Systemic racist policies and practices have prevented the equal advancement of African Americans in their own country. A country that was built off their backs.

Black Americans helped to build Greenbelt too, but segregated housing policies and ignorance prevented them from living here.

Juneteenth in Greenbelt was not just a celebration of a city coming together and celebrating the unity that we have, it was an acknowledgement that we must work harder to learn more about how various neighborhoods experience living in Greenbelt, and what we can do to make life better for all of us.

Lois Rosado

Supports Transparency

I agree with Mayor Colin Byrd. The Fraternal Order of Police representing the excellent City of Greenbelt Police are surely not interested in some kind of backroom politics staining their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Surely the Fraternal Order of Police carefully thought about the terms that are important to the Greenbelt Police, carefully reviewed the agreement internally, and involved the Greenbelt police through vote in what the terms of the CBA should be. This was provided in good faith to the City of Greenbelt.

There is no need for the city council to hide the terms recommended by the Fraternal Order of Police. This information can be publicly shared just as it is in other communities in Maryland and across the country. At a time when police are under heightened scrutiny, the city council being forthright with the citizens of Greenbelt is surely welcomed.

Thank you, Mayor Byrd, for working for transparency in government. I am sure that the other members of the city council, particularly the mayor pro tem who is a staunch advocate of collective bargaining and transparency, will strongly support this effort to inform the city residents and increase transparency in city business.

Brett Fishburne

Bring About Change

“Despite the things that are wrong in our country, there are too many good things worth saving to let the whole thing go down the drain. So, I think we should get together, as much as we can, and bring about change.”

John Kay, of the rock band Steppenwolf, spoke those words to an audience as the band was about to perform the song Monster (aka Monster/Suicide/America) in early 1970 (from the album Steppenwolf Live, 1970). The song Monster, the title track to their late-1969 concept album, tells the history of the United States of America, from those seeking religious freedom, to witch-burning, slavery, independence, the Civil War, westward expansion and the killing of Native Peoples to the then-present day of late 1969 and the “Monster,” which consisted of the Vietnam War, racism, corrupt and indifferent leaders, the demise of the ideals of justice and freedom, crime in the streets, police-community mistrust and the apathy of the people. The song’s refrain calls on the public to come together and fight the Monster.

Today, with the exception of the Vietnam War, we are facing the same Monster problems: Our so-called leaders are more concerned about themselves than the country, corrupt elected officials, graft, racism, neo-Nazis, sexism, crime in the streets (see Baltimore, Chicago, Washington), killings of children in the streets and at their schools, mistrust of police, killings of police officers, and the apathy and indifference of some public servants and some of the public.

John Kay’s words were, and remain, encouraging to me. I quoted him when I served as a VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) volunteer, once with an adult literacy program and later with a children’s literacy program. I quoted him when I served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with a program assisting senior citizens. Our current president has recently disparaged volunteerism and charitable acts.

John Kay’s call for us to save the good things and get together and bring about change are as important today as they were in 1970.

James William Thompson

Close the Loop

Thank you for the editorial note concerning letters to the editor.

In the future, please “close the loop” with regard to edits you make on such letters by clearly noting that edits were made. I don’t think that anyone wants to have edited letters presented as their original words, no matter how skillful the rewrite by your talented editors, and presumably the paper doesn’t want to inad-

vertently misrepresent anyone’s ideas or values.

Leah Cohen

Editor’s Note: Just to be clear, the News Review editorial staff does not rewrite letters.

Letter Editing

With respect to editing letters to the editor, my two cents: Omitting passages for brevity or other reasons is fine. So is fixing spelling, punctuation and typos for readability.

But unilaterally rewriting someone’s language, without conferring with them first, is discourteous to the writer. And this is true whether or not it’s a long-standing or common practice, and whether or not you reserve the right to do so: I admit that I did not read the fine print and was not aware of this practice.

I would prefer that you leave a letter out altogether, rather than misrepresent what someone said.

Sandy Irving

Editor’s Note: Just to be crystal clear, the News Review editorial staff does not rewrite letters.

PFAS Unsafe In Drinking Water

I am writing you because of my concern about poisonous chemicals known as PFAS in our drinking water. These chemicals are linked to several cancers and fetal abnormalities. PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) are found in stain-repellent fabrics, nonstick cookware, cleaning products and firefighting foams. According to the Baltimore Sun (June 14, 2020), tests of drinking water in Prince George’s County detected PFAS chemicals at a concentration of 17.8 parts per trillion, above what the Environmental Working Group, a non-profit focused on toxic chemicals and drinking water, considers safe, namely a level of 1 part per trillion. I believe there is no acceptable amount of PFAS in drinking water.

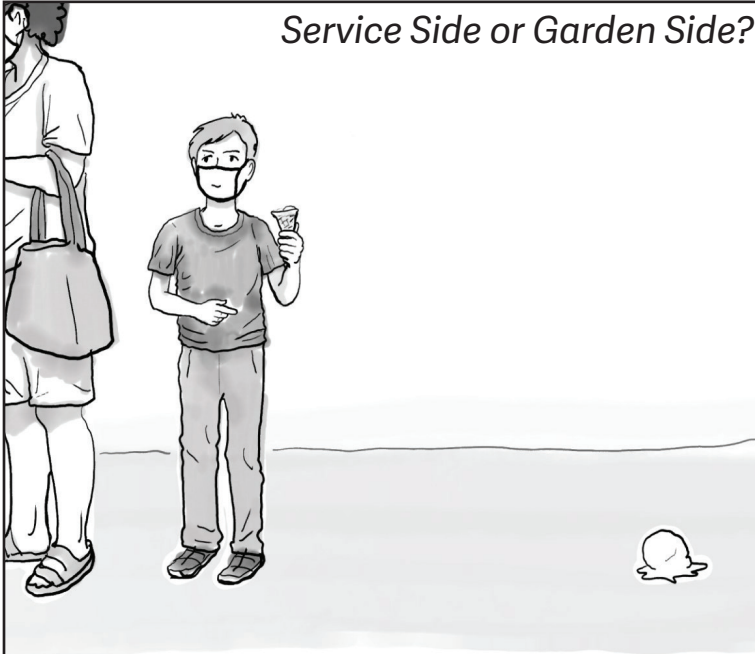
High levels of PFAS chemicals in Maryland may occur at landfills, wastewater treatment plants, firefighting training and military sites, but we just don’t know. Maryland has fallen behind a dozen other states that have passed or proposed limits on these chemicals in drinking water. Congress passed a bill in January that would have required the EPA to set a national standard for PFAS in drinking water but the bill stalled, after President Donald Trump threatened to veto it.

I would like to have the Maryland Department of the Environment test all 3,653 public water systems and the soil and groundwater at landfills, especially those closest to the burn pits of military bases, municipal airports and fire training areas. Eventually I hope that the Maryland State Legislature enacts legislation to establish maximum contaminant levels for PFAS in drinking water and seafood. Such legislation is necessary to protect our health.

Donna Hoffmeister



Service Side or Garden Side?



May I still eat it if it landed six feet away?

B. Glee



Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer’s name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



Greenbelt News Review

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Community Events

Draw, Paint, Stitch And Zoom for Peace

On August 4, 1985, the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, more than 25,000 fabric panels, held by about 15,000 people, were tied together forming “The Ribbon” around the Pentagon, White House and Capitol. The theme was “What I cannot bear to think of as lost forever in a nuclear war.” Panels arrived from all 50 states and many countries. Greenbelt Community Church collected and displayed panels from Minnesota, hosted a dinner and recruited lodgings for Minnesotans participating in the event.

Free rides were offered from Greenbelt Suburban Bank to the Capitol on the morning of the celebration. (See Greenbelt News Review archives August 1, 1985.)

This year, on the 75th anniversary of the first, and ever more fearfully not the last, nuclear bombing, another Ribbon Celebration is planned. Due to the pandemic it will be more localized and online, but artists and needleworkers are again creating 18” x 36” panels to be displayed in August. For more information see facebook.com/ribbonwashingondc or peace-actionmd.org/issues/nuclear-disarmament/the-ribbon-project-2020.

Meanwhile Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition announces the following events:

Tuesday, June 30, 7 to 8:30 p.m.: Peace Corps Forum – all welcome to discuss peace motivations past, present and future with Greenbelters who served in the Peace Corps.

Zoom link available at 6:45 p.m. for the Zoom information, email marjgray3@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 12: The Issue of Mr. O’Dell - film sponsored by Democratic Socialists of America. Time and access information in next week’s News Review.

Astronomical Society To Meet on June 25

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host an online Zoom lecture on Thursday, June 25, starting at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Marc Neveu of Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of Maryland will speak on “Life detection: the next frontier of robotic space missions.” All are welcome to attend, whether members or not. To “reserve a seat,” email greenbeltastro@gmail.com with the request. The Zoom link will be sent in response.

Boxwood Yard Sale

New traditions! Boxwood Village will hold its Community Yard Sale Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 5 from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Maps with the addresses of participating sellers will be handed out at the playground at the corner of Lastner and Ivy Lanes starting at 8:30 a.m. each day. Proceeds will go toward the Boxwood Village Scholarship, Greenbelt Elementary School and the cause preference chosen by the seller. Face masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Sale is rain or shine.



At the Library

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has announced that on July 1, the Library will be fine free. It will waive all existing overdue fines. This policy is to ensure that all Prince Georgians have equitable access to the library’s resources and services and remove the barrier of overdue fines. Over 200 library systems across North America have eliminated fines.

In other library activities, children’s author Antoine Lunsford is collaborating on the launch of a new virtual event series called Antoine & Friends: Local Children’s Author Series. Every Friday this summer at 11 a.m., local children and families will have the opportunity to hear authors who live and work in the community read their books. All programs will be streamed live on Crowdcast, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

PGCMLS offers Storytelling with ASL (American Sign Language) on Saturdays at 10 a.m. on Crowdcast. The virtual program, recommended for ages 2 to 5, will continue for the duration of the health emergency.

PGCMLS continues a weekly series of live virtual Summer @ Your Library (S@YL) events for all ages. Tune in on Wednesdays, July 1 to August 26 at 4 p.m. for live performances and educational programs that highlight the 2020 S@YL theme of Imagine Your Story. The 2019 World Series Champion Washington Nationals are generously making a wide range of online content available for Prince Georgians through S@YL with the PGCMLS, including storytimes with the World Series Champs, reading activities in English and Spanish and reading recommendations for kids through adults.

All PGCMLS virtual events are free and open to the public. The programs are streamed on Crowdcast with select additional streams on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Register for all events at pgcmls.info/virtual-events.

Community Dialogue Is Slated for June 27

Mayor Colin Byrd will hold a virtual Greenbelt community dialogue on race relations and community policing on Saturday, June 27 at 8:30 p.m. Byrd and a diverse group of Greenbelt residents involved in policing reforms will share their stories and answer questions in an effort to promote improved race relations and policing in Greenbelt. The panelists participating in this dialogue are Ric Gordon, Carla Johns, René Sewell-Raysor, Lois Rosado, Lucy Silver and LaWann Stribling.

Anyone wishing to participate in the virtual dialogue must RSVP by email to colinabyrd@gmail.com, giving the name of the participant(s). Organizers will email a link to participants on Friday, June 26 at 5 p.m.

Flick of the Week Film Discussion

The Old Greenbelt Theatre hosts film discussions via Zoom every Sunday at 2 p.m. On Sunday, June 28, we will discuss Groundhog Day (1993, 102 minutes, PG, CC), selected by OGT volunteer Elizabeth Knutson. To view the film ahead of the discussion, find links to the film online at greenbelttheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/.

Go to greenbelttheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/ to register for the film discussion to receive information on how to access the Zoom call. Those without internet access can participate in the discussion via phone. Call Kelly at 301-329-2034 to request access information.

About Groundhog Day

Sent to cover the annual ritual of groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, a self-centered TV weatherman mysteriously begins living the same day again and again.



Signs outside Greenbelt Elementary note the end of an unusual school year.

City Manager Signs Solar Power Purchase Agreement

by Cathie Meetre and Steve Skolnik

Director of Public Works Jim Sterling reports that, as authorized by the Greenbelt City Council, City Manager Nicole Ard has signed a solar energy Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between the City of Greenbelt and local solar contracting firm Standard Solar. Steve Skolnik, commenting as chair of the city’s Green Team Solar Circle, notes that, “Our city has taken a great step forward toward embracing real environmental stewardship.” Also instrumental in this development are Solar Circle members John Lippert and Matt Dirksen, and city staffers Dr. Luisa Robles and Brian Kim. The project is already moving forward with application for interconnection to the Pepco grid.

Solar Statistics

The array, as described by Skolnik, will provide a nominal 2,900 megawatt-hours of solar electricity each year, offsetting about 90 percent of annual electricity usage by city facilities. With delight, Skolnik also notes that this statistic quadruples the target stated in a policy adopted by council in September 2013 that at least 20 percent of the city’s electricity would be created from a renewable resource by 2022.

The solar array itself, rated at approximately 2.0 megawatts, will be located in southern Prince George’s County because the city does not possess sufficient open, undeveloped land. The fence around the array will enclose around 10 acres and the system will consist of over 5,700 individual solar panels, DC-to-AC inverters and electrical distribution gear to connect to the power grid. To eliminate the need to cut down any trees or disturb a wetland area within the acreage, the array is divided into two contiguous zones. As a comparison, Greenbelt Lake is about 23 acres so the array occupies a little less than half the surface area of the lake.

Administration

The arrangement, fully described in the PPA, is that the solar array, owned and operated by

Standard Solar, connects directly and feeds power into the Pepco grid; the city purchases the solar electricity from Standard Solar and the utility company credits the city for the full amount of electricity it receives from the solar array.

Win-Win-Win

Greenbelt first saves money because it pays less per kilowatt-hour for the solar electricity than it currently pays Pepco and, secondly, simultaneously fulfills its policy goal for renewable energy at the municipal facilities. Most importantly, it dramatically reduces the city’s carbon footprint, benefiting the environment by reducing fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions by about 2.7 million pounds annually (according to EPA figures, equivalent to eliminating about 3 million automobile miles per year).

Skolnik expects that, although there will be hurdles to surmount and challenges to be addressed as with any large public works project, the solar array could be in production by the end of 2021. He sees that day as “marking an important step in our city’s determination to embrace true environmental stewardship, while saving taxpayers’ money.”

Boxwood Scholarship Applications Start

The Boxwood Village Civic Association is seeking applicants for its annual \$500 scholarship award to a resident of Boxwood Village. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students.

The application form should be completed and returned by July 31. For further information or to pick up an application form, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at 301-345-8755 or spreadruak@gmail.com.



GATe GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION Friday June 26 - Thursday July 2		
PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATe ON  
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Sports/Drama • 1953	• The Joe Louis Story • Coley Wallace • Directed by Robert Gordon
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Charles Carroll v Samuel Ogle • T Jefferson v Thurgood Marshall
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Sports/Drama • 1953	• The Joe Louis Story • Coley Wallace • Directed by Robert Gordon
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Charles Carroll v Samuel Ogle • T Jefferson v Thurgood Marshall
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Sports/Drama • 1953	• The Joe Louis Story • Coley Wallace • Directed by Robert Gordon
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77 STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream		

City Notes

Planning and Community Development and Royal Farms discussed a possible Golden Triangle location.

Horticulture/Parks educated onlookers while adding biodiverse plantings to the pollinator garden.

Animal Control investigated two dog bites. One cat and four kittens were adopted. Five cats and eight kittens are sheltered, with three kittens in foster care.

Refuse/Recycling collected 30.40 tons of refuse and 12.79 tons of recycling material, cleaned contaminated recycling containers and posted signs to deter illegal dumping.

Recreation Staff began virtual summer classes and rehearsed for Creative Kids Camp, Circus Camp and Camp Encore. Outdoor movies are in the works plus planning for July 4th weekend virtual special events. Arts Staff began summer classes and presented an Art Share on the Virtual Recreation Center; original dance program productions feature tap and contemporary dance.

Therapeutic Recreation planned a Red Cross blood drive and delivered meals to 36 seniors.

Park Rangers managed Buddy Attick Park visitors. This involved deterring the use of fireworks, stopping people from grilling food (currently prohibited), preventing littering, monitoring mask usage and assisting with the provision of masks.

Democratic Picnic To Be Held on Zoom

The Democratic Club’s annual picnic, which will occur Sunday, June 28 at 3 p.m., will happen on Zoom due to the coronavirus. To be part of the action, see the club’s website at rooseveltclub.com to access Zoom on the day of the event.

Thanks to former Club President Nicole Williams, the program will include Yvette Lewis, chair of the Maryland State Democratic Party, who will join us to discuss efforts to help elect Joe Biden as the next U.S. President, as well as efforts to help in key states such as Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio.

The importance of voting was expressed well by Jon Batiste, band leader for the Stephen Colbert show: “There are three candidates running for President: Trump, Biden and Apathy.” His point simply put: vote.

Locally, the Democratic Club’s leadership, which has reached out to its membership to renew their annual fee, requests Greenbelters consider pitching in to its Fala Fund to contribute to key U.S. Senate elections in Arizona, North Carolina, Maine, Colorado and Kentucky. (See Club website.) For more information, call Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Monday, June 29, 2020, 8:00 pm **CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - CLOSED SESSION**, Virtual Meeting
OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a Closed Session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, June 29, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. virtually by Zoom to: 1) discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and 2) to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.

The purpose of this meeting will be: 1) Personnel matters to include the following Departments: Administration, Planning, Police, Public Works, Recreation, and City Manager Evaluation; and 2) City and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 32 agreement regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

A Special Meeting of the Council is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020 for the purpose of Council moving to go into closed session as stated above.

***The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session with the dial-in information provided below.**

Resident Dial-in for observation: Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592
Webinar ID: 861 2163 6130, Password: 372958
In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email: banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

Wednesday, July 1, at 8:00pm **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Roosevelt Center Owner**, Virtual. Resident participation information will be posted on City's Meeting Calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov. Meeting will be shown live on Comcast 71 & 996, Verizon 21 and Steaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE
WEEK OF JUNE 29-JULY 3

Monday Route – Collected Monday
Tuesday Route – Collected Tuesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Thursday Route – Collected Thursday

There will be no appliance, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, July 3

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee
For more information call 301- 474-8000

Guide to
SUMMER ARTS CLASSES



Music, Dance, Visual Arts and Ceramics for All Ages
Live on Zoom!

Registration now underway!

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation to download the the guide.

A wide variety of programs for all ages are available!

Classes going on now!

GREENBELT RECREATION



SUMMER CONNECT

Our Summer Camp Plan



2020



Greenbelt Recreation Announces

Visit the Virtual Recreation Center, www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation to learn about summer fun plans for youth ages 3 through 17 years.

For the first time, anyone near or far, can attend our summer camps!

Reach out to invite faraway friends and family to join your child for camp this summer! Enrollment is ongoing. Call 301-397-2200 for more information.



VIRTUAL 4TH OF JULY
July 4th in Greenbelt Goes Virtual

Celebrate at home- July 3-5
Since we can't gather at Buddy Attick Park this year for our annual July 4th celebration, we have planned a weekend full of fun, family-friendly activities.

Please visit our Virtual Recreation Center for all of the details: www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation.



Activities include:

- Virtual Disney Fireworks Display
- Historic Virtual Tours
- National Anthem Performances by local vocalists
- Family Time Activities featuring recipes, projects, and games
- Drum Circle: July 3
- Beach Tree Puppet Show "The Apple Tree" Sunday, July 5 at 3:00pm; meet & greet the puppeteers following the show

Let's Tackle Anger for teens



**Mondays
Starting on June 29
5:00pm-6:15pm**

**Program will be held via Zoom for nine weeks.
Contact CARES 301-345-6660
CARES@greenbeltmd.gov**

FIRST ANNUAL CHIEF'S BIKE RIDE
SATURDAY, JUNE 27 AT 8:00 AM
MEET AT REAR PARKING LOT OF BELTWAY PLAZA

Join our Greenbelt Police Bike Officers for a fun ride through the City! The ride will begin and end in the rear parking lot of Beltway Plaza. Riders of all ages are welcome. Participants must have a functional bicycle and helmet. Riders can join us at various designated points throughout the City.

More details regarding route to be taken will be on our social media and City website this coming week.

For more information contact George Mathews at gmathews@greenbeltmd.gov

NOTE: We will following the CDC's guidelines regarding group size and social distancing in effect at the time of the event



ATTORNEY continued from page 1

explained: “Our Intentional Catholic Community provided funds for me to make two trips and represent [Lucia] at her hearing. We won a form of humanitarian protection for her, and she is now reunited with her children. She was separated from her little girl for almost one year without notice or explanation that it would happen – [it was] cruel almost beyond belief.”

Gallagher, who has made immigration and refugee law her life’s work, has lived in Greenbelt since 2016. She is executive director of CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.), the largest coalition of immigration legal services organizations in the U.S., with 365 affiliate nonprofits. CLINIC advocates for justice in immigration policy, provides legal services to immigrants and trains legal representatives to give legal services at the border. Gallagher explains how CLINIC expands access to legal representation by training non-lawyers: “In the immigration system you can be a non-lawyer as long as you get accredited by the Department of Justice. You have to have so many hours of training, and show that you are working for [an accredited] nonprofit, and have good moral character.”

Gallagher explained that asylum must be granted “if somebody comes to the border saying they were persecuted on the basis of race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, political opinion or membership in a particular social group” such as LGBTQ persons, or those fleeing domestic violence or gang violence. CLINIC finds legal representatives for people seeking asylum, puts together cases and finds volunteer lawyers to represent them. Gallagher stated, “You have a right to come to the border and say

‘I’m afraid.’ We have to admit you and find out if there is a basis. We can detain if we think they’re a threat to the security of the United States. Now, with the criminalization of immigrants seeking asylum, if you’re coming to the border you remain in Mexico. It’s an egregious human rights violation based on restriction of poor, brown and black women and children. But they’re in places along the border where there are not enough lawyers. It eliminates access to asylum and protection.” A small handful of legal representatives organized by CLINIC faces a caseload of over 12,000 asylum seekers.

Born of Irish immigrants and raised in Philadelphia, Gallagher studied political science and Spanish at Temple University before attending Antioch Law School (later part of the University of the District of Columbia). In early 1992 she met her husband, Juan Luis Guillen, a journalist, when they were both working in Guatemala City. Gallagher has worked in direct advocacy, private law practice and in academia, in the U.S., Central America and Europe. Gallagher helped found the International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants, as well as the Center for Human Rights Legal Action. At the Center for Applied Legal Studies, Georgetown University Law Center, Gallagher taught asylum law and procedures to law students in a hands-on setting.

When asked what motivated her to work in immigration law, Gallagher pointed to Luke 12:48, “From those to whom much has been given, much will be required,” adding, “We forget we belong to each other.”



Individuals seeking to enter the U.S. are intercepted by Border Patrol officers along the southern border in Rio Grande, Texas.

- Photos by Juan Luis Guillen



A woman seeking to enter the U.S. is stopped by a Border Patrol officer.

Greenbelt 4-H Member Trains American Milking Devon Cows

by Dinah Cohen

I am a senior 4-H member of the Livestock Club at the Accokeek Foundation in Prince George’s County. I have been a part of the club since its founding in 2017, as a member and officer. For two years, I have trained a cow named Maddie to walk with a halter, stop and accept carrots from humans. In September 2019, the club exhibited at the Prince George’s County Fair at the Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro.

Unfortunately, Maddie was disqualified from competing, as the judges suspected she had ringworm (she most likely did not). Luckily, there were some extra cows from the farm, and I showed Joan, a 1-year-old heifer. Joan did exceptionally well, winning first for breed, both overall and in her age category. We also received first for showmanship in the 14 to 18 age category. Our 4-H club is unique because the Accokeek Foundation allows us to train their animals, which are all heritage breeds. Maddie and all the other cows are American Milking Devons.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL COHEN

Dinah Cohen exhibits Joan at the Prince George’s County Fair last September.

The American Milking Devon is a heritage breed of cattle whose ancestors were brought to the U.S. in 1623 from England. These hardy and intelligent animals are a tri-purpose breed, meaning they can be used for meat, dairy or draft work. There are approximately 1,200 registered American Milking Devons in the world. In contrast, there are 690,553 registered Holstein cattle just in the U.S. You might be wondering: why does it matter? Most commercial cow breeds are bred exclusively for production, often creating a lack of genetic diversity, which can lead to inbreeding and bad genetic traits. Since heritage breeds are not bred to have more meat or bigger udders, they generally do not have the same issues with inbreeding.

Furthermore, American Milking Devon cattle are very hardy, and can survive with very little human help.



One-and-a-half-month-old Maisie inspects the photographer.

- Photos by Dinah Cohen

If you now have a burning desire to set eyes upon one of these cows, you are in luck! The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, just 45 minutes from Greenbelt, has a thriving herd of American Milking Devons, plus heritage breeds of pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys. Now that you know about the American Milking Devon, maybe you will be inspired to learn more about, or even to help support these rare animals. I think it is fascinating to learn about and interact with these wonderful cows. I certainly hope they don’t disappear!



10-2 Sunday.
Parking lot
by Roosevelt
Center
Masks, distancing
required. Entry metered.
Greenbeltfarmersmarket.org
We accept/match SNAP



Ribbons, from left: Breed Grand Champion; First Place Showmanship, ages 14-18; and First Place in Breed, spring heifers





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Local Circus Camp Alumnus Now Coaches Future Clowns

by Shesh Batni

Not every clown wants to eat you in the sewers like Pennywise.

Circus clowns focus on balance and acrobatics. They aim to improve their craft and entertain. Greenbelt resident Charles Fahey, 22, would definitely describe himself as a circus clown. He’s spent over half of his life learning and practicing the circus arts, and clowns around at any chance.

Fahey got into circus arts at age 11 after attending a circus camp at the Community Center through the Greenbelt Recreation Department. He had participated in two previous camps, a performing arts camp and a sports camp, but didn’t find either a good fit. While he enjoyed performing arts camp, he was anxious at the final mandatory performance; and while he loved sports then and still does today, he found the sports camp to be overly competitive. He finally found his niche at circus camp, a perfect blend for him of performance and athleticism.

At circus camp, Fahey learned the kinds of performance tricks and techniques typical for a red tent circus. He trained with actual circus equipment learning tricks like juggling, walking tight-rope, riding unicycles and even partner acrobatics. But underlying all these heavily practiced tricks, circus camp taught kids to exercise on-stage energy.

Fahey believes circus camp helped him be more comfortable performing. Whereas he dreaded mandatory performances at performing arts camp, he was eager to show off his circus tricks. He credits former camp director Greg May for helping him excel.

“He basically raised me, circus wise,” Fahey said. “He told me I could be goofy and genuine.”

After three years of participating in circus camp as a student, Fahey became an intern at age 15, helping instruct younger students. Just one year later Fahey became a counselor, mentoring children and helping them cultivate a playful and exciting skill.

While Fahey found his way into circus arts at an early age, he says it’s not easy to get involved in the clown business. It’s a niche interest, he says, and accessibility and promotion can be challenging. Classes in circus arts, like the camp he attended, require a “constant fee to learn.” Equipment costs money and training costs money. Some people simply don’t have the



Charles Fahey assists Alexi Clarke in an August 2015 Circus Camp performance.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

mostly physical comedy. They make large, exaggerated movements that are meant to telegraph to people far away in the stands.

Second, things circus performers do are sometimes difficult and dangerous. Circus performers are highly trained to pull off physical tricks and stunts that require immense practice and preparation. Fahey finds when you make a fantastic trick look easy, the skill and effort is underappreciated. All the hard work and effort put into learning these skills should be recognized. “Just putting on a clown suit doesn’t make you a clown.”

Fahey wishes more people would get interested in learning circus arts. But he admits that while the idea of circus performance can be enticing, it’s not for the faint of heart.

“You need to be OK and used to getting knocked down and getting back up again,” he says.

Fahey believes the commitment to learning this difficult skill must be strong and consistent to get satisfying results. For example, when he first joined circus camp, Fahey aspired to be an amazing unicyclist. But as he started learning he became more interested in other modes of performance. His dedication to learning unicycling was faint, but his dedication to learning other tricks grew stronger. He still has a lot to learn to become the best performer he can be, Fahey says. While helping students learn the fundamentals, he is always looking to improve his craft and grow as a performer.

Fahey is returning to the circus camp this summer with the adapted Summer Connect circus camp that will take place online. Campers can expect to see skills coach Fahey in daily activity

videos and Zoom interactive warm-ups and skills coaching sessions.

Even when he is not performing, Fahey still exhibits clownish behavior. Evan Camara, a close friend of Fahey, notes his goofy habits and takes pride in his friend’s profession and general desire to entertain.

“I mean he is a clown,” said Camara. “He’s a silly person and it fits for his profession.”



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

Charles Fahey, right, lends a hand to a double stack of tightrope walkers at a 2016 Circus Camp session.

funds to invest in an activity that will most likely remain an extracurricular interest. But for Fahey, circus arts quickly seeped into his everyday life and ultimately became his profession.

Still, there are a few things Fahey would like to straighten out and make clear to the viewers in the stands. First, despite the impression left by “Joker,” clowns aren’t just stand-up comedians. Circus clowns do a lot of work in entertainment through

Council Objects to County Bill, Debates Open Space

by Kathleen Gallagher

At its June 8 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council declared itself to be both surprised and taken aback by the introduction on May 18 by County Council Chair Todd Turner of a bill that would allow the county council to waive public safety facilities mitigation requirements countywide on the basis solely of a resolution. The county is responsible for seeing that when there is new residential construction there will be adequate facilities, such as police and fire departments, and this change would potentially affect the adequacy of both. Since Greenbelt is located in the county’s Developed Tier, existing law already allows the county council to waive the public safety surcharge in Greenbelt, but the proposed change would extend that potential waiver countywide.

Developers pay the surcharge to the county, municipality or other entity providing the needed services. Waiving it would reduce their upfront cost to build new properties without contributing to any additional service needs that may result.

Councilmember Judith Davis asked why Turner would have introduced such legislation, which would increase the likelihood of development in the county without adequate facilities. Councilmember Emmett Jordan agreed, adding that the intent and the likely impact of the change were not clear. Both requested staff to find out why the bill was introduced, and council voted unanimously to oppose the bill.

Program Open Space

Director of Planning Terri Hruby presented staff’s proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Program Open Space (POS) program, which will be submitted to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Based on the results of the 2010 census, Greenbelt will receive \$181,870, compared with the \$198,540 it received in Fiscal Year 2020. The city is required to allocate at least 50 percent of its FY 2021 funds to acquisition projects.

This year, the draft proposal, which had to be submitted by June 19, was supported by council, but not without a good deal of controversy about how the city was proposing to use it.

The city currently has POS funds encumbered for the following development projects: Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center Phase II Improvements and Buddy Attick Park Master Plan Improvements. Including the city’s FY 2021 POS allocation, its unencumbered POS balance is \$873,023, with at least \$362,807 required to be used for acquisition projects.

For FY 2021, the planning

staff has proposed that \$488,385 of unencumbered POS funds be programed for land acquisition. The remaining unencumbered funds would be allocated to the following products: Buddy Attick Park Master Plan Improvements; Lakecrest Tennis Court Improvements; Playground Renovations, 2 Court Research Road; Outdoor Fitness Zone, Greenbelt Station Community; and Youth Center Improvements.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said that, as is his usual practice, he would not vote in support of the plan. In the past, Roberts has usually refused to support any use of POS funds other than land purchase. The objection this year is to the focus on development projects in center city when there is a need for recreational projects in Greenbelt West, particularly to serve the residents of Franklin Park.

Greenbelt resident Lois Rosado was present at the meeting to object to the lack of funding of projects to serve Franklin Park residents as well. Davis pointed out that there is funding in this POS request for an outdoor fitness zone in nearby Greenbelt Station. When Rosado asked whether residents of Franklin Park would be able to use it, Davis said they would, but Rosado shook her head and said, “I doubt it. I doubt it.” She maintained that for the residents of Franklin Park to receive equal benefits would require changing the city’s election system to districts or wards with their own dedicated election officials.

Although the Zoom connection made it impossible for observers to determine the vote on the POS request with certainty, the city clerk confirmed that the FY 2021 program was approved 3-2, with Roberts and Mayor Colin Byrd voting against.

Subsidies for Highways

Davis had asked to place on the agenda a letter to be sent to State Comptroller Peter Franchot in opposition to possible public subsidies and WSSC water rate increases being proposed to supplement funding for the I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Project. The City of Greenbelt has joined with neighboring municipalities in strongly opposing this project. A motion in favor of Davis’s request passed unanimously.



Community Yard Sale

Boxwood Village
Saturday, July 4,
Sunday, July 5
9 a.m. to Noon
Rain of Shine

Pick up house maps at
corner of Lastner
and Ivy Lanes
Social distancing and
masks required
See article page 3





Small Ad

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\$30

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com



FEED GREENBELT

Each \$10 donation provides 1 reheatable meal to a Greenbelt resident in need. Meals are balanced and delicious. They are made from whole foods and are free from chemicals and preservatives.

Meals are offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays for contactless pickup at The New Deal Cafe front patio from 4:30pm-5pm. Free contactless delivery is available. The sign up deadline is Sunday noon for the following Wednesday & Saturday.

Hosted by DC Vegan and MCF Community Church

REQUEST A MEAL


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Community Yard Sale

Boxwood Village
Saturday, July 4,
Sunday, July 5
9 a.m. to Noon
Rain of Shine

Pick up house maps at
corner of Lastner
and Ivy Lanes
Social distancing and
masks required
See article page 3



Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Local Sorority Chapter Supports Black-Owned Businesses

In a recent press release, Psi Epsilon Omega (PEO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), which is incorporated in Prince George’s County, reported that it has provided more than \$15,000 to 70 Black-owned businesses from January through May 2020 in support of African American entrepreneurs. Health and wellness providers, restaurants, plumbers and clothing retailers are just a few of the Black-owned businesses supported by the sorority.

“As the first Black female Greek organization, our sorority has always supported the Black community. Despite this initiative being launched prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are thrilled that we were able to intentionally support African American entrepreneurs during a time when businesses were required to close or reduce their services due to the coronavirus,” said Benita Swindell, PEO Chapter president.

PEO and other AKA chapters are tracking the money that members spend each month at

Black-owned businesses. This effort is part of the Black Dollar 365 initiative. This program highlights and promotes successful Black-owned businesses with an aim toward spawning new entrepreneurial ventures in their communities. PEO is encouraging intentional support and leveraging the power of the Black dollar, 365 days a year.

“It is very important that we support local Black businesses 365 days a year, particularly in our service areas of Laurel, Bowie and Greenbelt, which are located in Prince George’s County, one of the wealthiest African American counties in the United States,” added Swindell. “It helps build jobs and support families in the communities where we live.”

The two Black-owned businesses in Greenbelt participating in this program are Toni the Nail Slayer and CMA Visions Photography.

The Black Dollar 365 initiative is a part of AKA’s Target 3 program, Building Your Economic Legacy, through support of African American entrepreneurs.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

city departments.

Recreation Assistant Director of Facilities Joe McNeal explained the new, reopening procedures at the outdoor pool (estimated for early July), with limited entrance and exit, and only reservation-only lap swimming at first. Cleaning between one-hour sessions will be done, with swimmers having to bring their own chairs. Pool staff will be trained in safe rescue techniques and pool operations.

Recreation is at work on providing safe, outdoor movies at Buddy Attick and Schrom Hills Parks, pending county permission. The mask requirement at Buddy Attick Park will remain until the pandemic has lessened.

Council informed GEAC that since the police department is understaffed, the police budget was approved unaltered; this was in response to the question as whether the Greenbelt police would be experiencing defunding, per the national discussion occurring now. Davis said future worksessions will be devoted to police funding and procedures.

Chief Richard Bowers reassured GEAC that chokeholds and neck restraints are prohibited according to police policy. As a state and nationally accredited department, officers receive constant training and guidance, based on real-life scenarios, to enable them to always serve the public in a safe, helpful and humane manner. Internal procedures are in place that monitor officer conduct and largely prevent grievous incidents from happening.

Bowers said that while service calls are down in Greenbelt East, the crime rate has remained steady, mostly involving auto thefts.

A camera has been installed at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), with another planned for Schrom Hills Park. A portable camera, costing \$15,000, is in place at Greenbriar.

City Planner Terri Hruby said that city inspectors have addressed and monitored the litter problem at Greenway Center through code enforcement. Council was dismayed at the loss of business there due to the pandemic.

Hruby said bikeshare stations at ERHS and four other sites will be installed this summer. The bus shelter on Hanover Parkway and upgrades in Greenbelt East will probably be complete in the fall.

Council said that the Bradford pear trees on Hanover Parkway, which have exceeded their 20-year life span, will be removed using a phased approach.

Severe overcrowding is an issue for virtually all schools in the northern part of the county. Springhill Lake Elementary has reached its limits with temporary buildings and needs to be replaced, and ERHS is in line for an addition. Two sites, at Glen Oaks/Greenbriar Phase Three and Windsor Green, have been considered for a new elementary and middle school.



THANK YOU, TULSA!

For Trump’s half-empty arena

Trump is losing steam. GO JOE !!

Paid by David Lange

School Board, Council, GEAC PTSA Debate SRO Program

by Matthew Arbach

Recently, a resolution has been debated within the Prince George’s County School Board regarding the removal of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. This has sparked a conversation among the Greenbelt City Council and at Eleanor Roosevelt High School as well. Such a move would mean that the \$5 million earmarked for SROs would instead be used to fund mental health and counseling services. The discussion has attracted attention as it has coincided with the national debate concerning defunding police departments in response to recent and continuing police abuses. Although, said Councilmember Judith Davis at the June 17 council meeting with Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC), the initiative is probably not about bad performance by SRO’s but more about whether the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Greenbelt has two SRO’s: Officer Charles Wooten, a Greenbelt Police officer at ERHS and a county officer at Greenbelt Middle School. Concerning ERHS, Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers said, “if we did not provide one, the county police would. Since we have an officer there, the county provides funding back to the city to cover the cost of staffing.” Every high school in the county has an SRO, with one SRO assigned to cover several middle schools.

it added to a feeling of safety, allowing them to do their jobs better, and also, importantly, in being an effective conduit to parents when conflicts arose.

ERHS teacher Patrick Gleason, who heads the Bring Change to Roosevelt club, said, “ I would love to see more therapists and psychologists available for students instead of having to share them across multiple schools. I think we need to take a proactive approach rather than reactive approach. Too many students are dealing with too many mental issues not to seriously address this now.”

The PTSA’s Smith said that, while the SRO decision “is a county and state-level authorization issue.” “The PTSA has the ability to make our voices heard at board sessions.” He said that he thought “the staff was positive about having the SRO available.” He added, “I think that what we have is work to be done. While we have folks who want the officers removed from the premises, I think that the larger conversation is about students feeling safe and having a place to process when they don’t.”

At the June 17 council meeting with GEAC, SROs were also discussed. Recently, a letter from the city manager’s office was sent

to the school board, signed by five councilmembers, in favor of retaining the program. At the June 17 meeting, Councilmember Emmett Jordan said that the SRO and mental health funding are both important and “not mutually exclusive.” He added that, with a ERHS population of around 3,000, a police officer was needed. Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt that having an armed officer could not improve any dangerous situation. Davis, in favor of the program, said there was “a lot to” the issue, including whether the SRO money could be transferred at all.

Bowers wanted to continue this years-long SRO partnership, seeing it as a “help to create a positive relationship with both the school system as well as the students.”

At the moment, the SRO debate has been tabled by the school board. At present, School CEO Monica Goldson has opened it to a public debate, and, at a press conference on June 9, County Executive Angela Also-brooks has come out in support of retaining the program, seeing it as a valid resource for students and of community policing as well as a protection in the case of a mass shooting.



Perennial Coreopsis in bloom

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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Handgun
June 17, 12:03 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Lane. A 22-year-old nonresident was arrested during a traffic stop for a traffic violation and charged with transporting a handgun. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Theft
June 15, 5:10 p.m., 9304 Edmonston Road. A package was taken from the stoop of a residence.

June 15, 5:25 p.m., 9125 Springhill Lane. A cell phone was removed from the balcony of a residence.

June 16, 2:45 p.m., 5300 block Stream Bank Lane. A woman lost her credit card earlier in the week and it was used later to make unauthorized purchases.

Disorderly Conduct
June 15, 12:05 a.m., 9110 Edmonston Road. A 26-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct by officers who responded to a report of a person setting fireworks off into the air. He was released on citation pending trial.

Vandalism
June 11, 9:45 6630 Lake Park Drive. The bedroom window of a residence was broken out.

June 12, 12:30 a.m., 7200 Hanover Parkway. Some people

attempted to enter a woman's room at the Holiday Inn and started an altercation that damaged the door. She later discovered a tire on her vehicle was slashed.

June 14, 2:55 a.m., 6301 Golden Triangle Drive. The rear glass door at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel was broken.

June 14, 5:10 p.m., 7901 Mandan Road. Several packages were taken from the front stoop of a residence on March 23.

Vehicle Crime
Power tools were taken from 5995 Springhill Drive after the driver's door of a work van was forced open. A front passenger window was broken out at 7710 Hanover Parkway and an LED light was taken. In the 8000 block Greenbelt Station Parkway passenger windows were broken out and tires and rims were taken.

Windows of two vehicles at 7710 Hanover Parkway were broken out and a witness saw a person break into the vehicles and then flee in a black SUV.

Three tires were slashed in the 8300 block Canning Terrace and four in 6109 Breezewood Court. The driver's window at 9170 Edmonston Road was broken out. The body of a vehicle at 15 Crescent Road was damaged.

POLICE continued from page 1

the residents that we are a part of the community." A big topic that he addressed early in the meeting was the use of force by police officers.

Use of Force
Captain Tim White explained how Greenbelt officers use appropriate and reasonable force. White said that Greenbelt officers' conduct is established and monitored with policy, training and supervision.

As the nation calls for police reform and the change of certain practices, Greenbelt has already implemented some of these changes which, according to White, include banning chokeholds, providing training on how to de-escalate situations and how to use force as the last option, banning shooting at motor vehicles and requiring body camera use by officers.

The meeting was opened for questions from Greenbelt residents participating virtually. The questions covered topics such as training, increasing police force diversity and the budget.

Hiring and Training
Captain Gordon Pracht explained how officers are hired to work for the GPD. In addition to the training and testing that the State of Maryland mandates, GPD conducts its own extensive tests for potential officers. These include a mental evaluation, polygraph test and other similar evaluations, to ensure the city and its department are getting the best officers.

GPD officials explained that some training involves study visits to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the University of Maryland and other nearby centers that can provide ways for officers to become knowledgeable on important cultural issues.

School Resource Officers
In the meeting, the topic of school resource officers (SROs) (see article page 8) was raised.

In some parts of the U.S., the removal of SROs from schools has been a hot topic between police departments and schools. The GPD believes that the SRO program is of great value, especially in a small community like Greenbelt, because it allows for the school and police department to create a valuable relationship, not simply as police officer and student but as teachers and mentors.

Community Bike Ride
The GPD is working on the challenge of building trust within minority communities.

Bowers announced that on Saturday, June 27 beginning at 8 a.m., the GPD is hosting a Chief's Bike Ride, an event in which people of all ages are invited to ride along with bicycle officers. The ride will begin and end in the rear parking lot of Beltway Plaza and riders are invited to join in at various points around town. Participants must have a functional bicycle and helmet.

The police officers and different community organizations will

ride for four to six miles with the intention of better connecting the community with the officers.

The GPD believes that events like the bike ride or the provision of SROs allow for community members to see officers in a new light without there being a confrontational event. Such interactions with residents provide ideas and build bridges in the community to create a bond with communities of color.

"Our role is as caretakers of the community. We are not here to oversee or be warriors of the community or just to help when there is a crisis," said Bowers. He continued with, "Our job is to be a part of the community and to help lead when there is a crisis."

Questions that couldn't be answered in the meeting are being researched so that correct answers can be provided. Residents wishing to provide feedback or ask questions are encouraged to communicate with the police, who are looking forward to hearing from residents.



PHOTO BY CLAUDE AUBERT

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.
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AS LAWN & ORDER observes the asinine ways parts of our country are handling the pandemic, Lawn & Order grows more appreciative of the diligence displayed by the Greenbelt community. In honor of that diligence, Lawn & Order will reduce its pricing 20% for all lawn services through the middle of July. Call Dennis at 240-264-7638 and stay safe!

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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 8 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
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From My Perspective

Overcoming Prejudice Means Looking Inside Ourselves

by Rick Ransom

Like so many of you, I have watched and read the news of numerous encounters between police and individuals of color that have resulted in the deaths of the individuals. I am encouraged that we have not had such an incident leading to death in our city. I am also encouraged by the professionalism I have witnessed in my own interactions with city police officers and commanders in my service on one of the city council boards. But it does not mean we have overcome racism in Greenbelt nor in our police department. Let's be clear. The differential treatment of blacks by the police arises from the racism that we continue to harbor in our populace.

In trying to remedy the prejudice that leads to unjust police behavior, we need to look first at how we as individuals treat our neighbors who are of a different color or nationality or religion or sexual orientation. Do we treat people differently because of these factors? Do we act one way in their presence and another way when we are speaking to our friends privately? Moreover, have we reached out to include people who are outwardly different from us as friends? That applies to all of us whether we are black, white, brown, Jewish, Christian, Hispanic, gay, straight and so on. So long as we categorize people in a particular circumstance as "them," prejudice thrives.

We cannot begin to truly understand differing perspectives until we incorporate people of

different circumstances into our social circle. Like some of you, we have an interracial marriage in our family. We are proud of our son-in-law and grandchildren and support and love them. But we are a little more fearful for our black grandsons who have already had to have "the talk" from their parents about police encounters. Mistreatment can arise from a variety of circumstances but prejudice based on skin color is hard for the target to avoid.

We in Greenbelt have a simple pledge to help guide us in our quest for treating all equally. It is the city pledge, which is printed every week in this paper at the top of the section City Information & Events. Are our actions and conversations helping to accomplish the goals of treating all with respect and fairness?

The mayor has laid out a comprehensive plan for striving to meet these goals in our police enforcement. It does not cite prior misbehaviors nor paint the department in a negative way. It is a good place to start and he deserves credit for gathering thoughts into a concrete plan. Comments from citizens and from the police should be encouraged as to its details.

We can be hopeful that something workable can be implemented and have a positive effect on the department. These efforts will be greatly assisted by not just our support for the plan but in our behavior to combat racism in our community. Will you subscribe to the pledge?

Additional Enrollment Time Given For Health Insurance

Maryland Health Connection's Coronavirus Emergency Special Enrollment Period runs through July 15. The Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program gives state tax filers the option to share information from their tax return, like household size and income, with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to see if they are eligible for free or low-cost health insurance. Those who check the box for use of state tax forms (502 and 502B) will receive a letter from the Exchange indicating if they are eligible for free or low-cost health coverage. To date, nearly 4,000 Marylanders have enrolled in health insurance under this innovative program.

Because the state is facing high levels of unemployment, many Marylanders are losing health coverage offered by their former employers. Such individuals have 60 days from loss of coverage to enroll. If they've missed that deadline, they can get coverage through this special enrollment period.

To enroll, visit MarylandHealthConnection.gov. Individuals also can download the free Enroll MHC mobile app. Free consumer assistance is available by calling 855-642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Help is available in more than 200 languages through the call center, as well as the Relay service for the deaf and hard of hearing. Trained navigators and brokers statewide offer free help with enrolling by phone. For information go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov.

Last year, nine out of 10 Marylanders who enrolled through Maryland Health Connection were eligible for free coverage or financial help to lower the cost of their health insurance. This special enrollment period is for private health plans. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll at any time of year.

Information for this article is drawn from a Maryland Health Benefit Exchange press release.

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Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced backyard, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Townhome with addition 2 br townhome w front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen w/passthru & pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With SS appliances. \$149,900

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Central HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

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A turtle keeps its head above water at Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY ELLEN ROBERTSON

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Juneteenth in Greenbelt



From left, Pastor Jeffrey Gordon and Brian Butler display signs at the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 20.



Mayor Colin Byrd reminds us that it's time to do something different in his address at the Juneteenth Celebration.



Drummers, led by Joe Parks and Katy Gaughan, drum out hearts beating for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. From left, Dorian Winterfeld, Raven Eyes Cagle, Katy Gaughan, Reese Aguilar, Joe Parks and Joy Shulman



Councilmember Emmett Jordan speaks at the Celebration.



Ishma'il Allgood, a West Coast poet, shares his work.



In a powerful presentation, Dr. Lois Rosado and Rev. Dr. Robin Hawley-Gorsline read "Let America be America Again" by Langston Hughes.

JUNETEENTH continued from page 1

impassioned refrain echoed from the buildings and challenged attendees as he cried out in anguish, "Justice – why do you keep leaving me?"

Councilmember Emmett Jordan reminded the gathering of the significance and importance of Juneteenth to the African American community and the confluence of Floyd's death.

Robin Hawley-Gorsline and Rosado read Langston Hughes' poem Let America Be America Again in call and response. Each stanza described America's greatness and the response, "America never was America to me," encompassed the struggles of the poor, the Black, the Indian, the immigrant, the laborers and the underpaid in poetic searing cadence. After the indictment of failures, Hawley-Gorsline and Rosado conclude with the poet's words of hope: "America never was America to me and yet I swear . . . America will be!"

Brian Butler recounted the code talk often used by African Americans to convey important messages. He drew the parallel of code talk tradition as he rapped a portion of poet-philosopher hip-hop artist's KRS-One's Knowledge Reigns Supreme/

Ah Yeah, referencing influencers from Moses to Jesus to Harriet Tubman to Marcus Garvey to Malcolm X. Butler lamented that the message in current hip-hop is lost but that hip-hop pioneers used the artform to teach and educate.

Mayor Colin Byrd spoke to the gathering connecting the past and the present – reminding us that we've been at these crossroads before and that we must do something different. As an alumnus of the University of Maryland, he used the analogy of the turtle whose shell is hard – to protect what's essential and important; the soft inside to birth change, and its willingness to stick its neck out to view the world and what is going on.

Faith is a strong tradition in African American communities, and Tinch closed out the commemoration.

As the Drum Circle began its rhythmic conclusion, Jeffrey Gordon, Ric Gordon's father visiting from Pittsburgh, mused on the diversity of the crowd. And as the drummers closed out this Juneteenth, also called Freedom Day, the community, Black and white, greeted each other.



Ric Gordon (right) speaks with his father Pastor Jeffrey Gordon. Behind are Brian Butler (right) and At-Large Prince George's Councilmember Calvin Hawkins.



After the presentations, audience members chat.



Terri Goodnow demonstrates spinning Poi, a performance art that originated with the Māori people of New Zealand, where it is still practiced today.



How Are You Coping?

Send us your stories and photos, showing what you are doing during forced time at home. We will publish a selection of these submissions during the coming weeks. Email editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.